

STATE SENATOR • MARTHA G. SCOTT • 2ND DISTRICT

Scott Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-7748 • Fax: 517-373-1387
E-mail: senmscott@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.michigan.gov/scott



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CONTACT: Sen. Martha G. Scott
PHONE: 517-373-7748

COLLABORATIVE EFFORT BRINGS IN GRANT DOLLARS FOR DEMOLITION *Grant aims to bolster clean-up program in Highland Park*

LANSING – State Senator Martha G. Scott, State Farm® Insurance and Highland Park/Detroit Weed and Seed (Police Department Central District Operation), are working collaboratively to revitalize the city of Highland Park.

In direct response to the arson fires during the summer of 2005 in Highland Park, State Farm and Sen. Scott embarked upon a project that would help to clean up some of the blighted areas. Because of her dedication to the Highland Park community and knowledge of community organizations to partner with, Sen. Scott contacted Highland Park/Detroit Weed and Seed, part of a nationwide network of 332 Weed & Seed sites that have been established across the country by the U.S. Department of Justice, to join forces on a \$20,000 State Farm Neighborhood Revitalization grant.

Through Highland Park/Detroit Weed and Seed several dilapidated houses in Highland Park will be torn down. The properties will be demolished as part of the community revitalization program. The hopes are that this project will have a major impact on crime, community restoration, and positive programs within the community.

“Tearing down decrepit homes creates healthy neighborhoods which leads to a healthier city,” said Sen. Scott. “I commend State Farm for its commitment to the people of Highland Park.”

The properties identified for demolition through the grant will add to the 68 rundown properties the organization has demolished in the Highland Park community in the last two years, with the assistance of the Office of Drug Control Policy and the Highland Park Tax Increment Financing Authority (TIFA).

“The revitalization of our neighborhoods is a top priority,” said Jerome Drain, Director of the Highland Park/DPD Central District Weed and Seed Initiative. “The residents of Highland Park expect – and deserve – to live in a safe and clean environment. I am gratified with State Farm’s involvement in our efforts.”

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The program collaborates with a number of community organizations and will partner with the Reggie McKenzie Foundation which recently received an additional \$5,000 grant from State Farm to launch a program called *Project Impact*.

Project Impact will empower at-risk youth in a classroom setting and on the streets of Highland Park. Using technology, they will collect and analyze data on neighborhood conditions. At the culmination of the project, a presentation will be made to the Highland Park city council, highlighting areas in the community that have been neglected and in need of improvement.

“My heartfelt thanks to State Farm and Highland Park/Detroit Weed and Seed as we continue our efforts to make Highland Park a strong and vibrant city,” said Sen. Scott. “One step at a time we will bring hope and renewal to the people of Highland Park.”

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Senator Scott represents the 2nd Senate District, which includes areas of Detroit and the cities of Hamtramck, Harper Woods, Highland Park and all of the Grosse Pointes. She serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee.